

Rozier House
St. Mary's Road
Ste. Genevieve
Ste. Genevieve County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1280

HABS
MO,
97-SAIGEN,
37-

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
ROZIER HOUSE

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Location: St. Mary's Road (formerly at 140 S. 7th St), Ste.
Genevieve, Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri, 63670

Present Owner: Royce and Margaret Wilhauk

Present Occupant: None

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: This is an example of a small, simple vertical log building of a late date in Ste. Genevieve, a National Historic Landmark Historic District.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of Erection: c. 1844
2. Original and subsequent owners: Early titles to this property are not clear. In this part of town, small houses were built in the larger concessions without the owners taking formal title to their particular lots. According to an elderly informant during the 1982 Ste. Genevieve survey, the house was moved to its site at 140 South Seventh Street from a location about 200 feet south on the corner of Seventh and Gaboury. The date of the move was not indicated, but the present house on that site would have been built about 1900. Tracing the title at the 140 South Seventh Street site, the following records have been found. Legal description: Part of Survey No. 281 in the town of Ste. Genevieve, with frontage of 50 feet on the east side of the street running south from Market Street or Plank Road to South Gabouri Creek (old Fredericktown Road) by a depth of 175 feet. Bounded on the north by the lot of Frank Morice, on the east by the lot of Felix Kraenzle, on the south by the lot formerly of William T. Wilson, and on the west by a street/road.

Chain of title:

- a. November 21, 1903, general warranty deed from John F. Valentine Rozier to Marie Lewis for \$150.00. Deed book 62, page 240.
- b. September 10, 1902, by will of Mary Valentine Rozier to Marie (Rozier?). Deed book 64, page 84.
- c. March 22, 1945, general warranty deed from Wayman Chappell and Corrine Chappell, wife of Michigan to Orville Chappell and Zola Chappell, wife and Mildred White and James White, husband to August L. Karl for \$600.00. Deed book 122, page 617.

- d. October 5, 1984, general warranty deed from Harry L. and Johnetta Madison to James H. Bazile, single. The same property acquired by August L. Karl from Wayman Chappell et al. 22 March 1945. Deed book 373, page 83.
 - e. Acquired for removal from the site, 1985, by Royce and Margaret Wilhauk.
3. Original plans and construction: Original small structure of two rooms with original partition, vertical log construction.
 4. Alterations and additions: The house was remodeled in the second half of the nineteenth century when it gained a small rear addition and the roof was raised. The present owners acquired the house when it was threatened with demolition. It was dismantled and moved to its present location where the owners intend to reconstruct it. When measured for HABS, the house was dismantled. Drawings were made from measurements of the parts, and from notes taken for the owner at the time the house was dismantled.

B. Historical Context:

Ste. Genevieve was one of the most important French colonial settlements in the mid-Mississippi valley, and the one that best preserves the architecture of that period. The Rozier house is a late example of vertical log construction demonstrating the persistence of the French creole tradition in the region.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character:
2. Condition of fabric: dismantled.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: One story with high attic, no basement, 24'-2" across the front by 24'-9" deep.
2. Foundations: Limestone on the prior site.
3. Walls: Vertical, hewn, white oak logs, mortised into a sill, infilled with bouzillage, plastered or sheathed with horizontal clapboards. Rear room made of more widely spaced vertical members and nogged with bricks.
4. Structural system, framing: Vertical log structure on

a sill carrying a plate, hewn logs closely spaced. The roof which was not saved had apparently been replaced as rafters were 2" x 4", circular sawn.

5. Porches: Front porch with decorative wrought iron supports was not saved.
6. Chimneys: One centrally located chimney.
7. Openings: Principal openings at the center of both the front and back of the house.
 - a. Doorways and doors: 24 light door, c. 1920 was not saved.
 - b. Windows and shutters: double hung windows, most with six-light sash.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: gable roof carried over front porch.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: No eave projection, boxed in plate at eave line of the porch.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:
 - a. First floor: Three room interior; two rooms in the front portion of house, with one room across the rear.
 - b. Cellar: no cellar.
 - c. Second floor or attic: not saved.
2. Stairways: originally located in room at rear.
3. Flooring: Random size, 8-12" wide, beaded edges with visible plane marks.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Rough, plastered walls. Rear room had exposed ceiling beams, 3" x 6" with beaded edges.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: panelled front door.
 - b. Windows: double hung windows, six and nine light sash.

D. Site:

General setting and orientation: The house was originally on the corner of Seventh and South Gaboury Streets, the eastern portion of the lot purchased by Antoine Lalumandiere in 1829. Probably before 1900 it was moved about 200 feet to 140 South Seventh Street. It was dismantled at that site in 1985 by the present owners. It will be reconstructed on St. Mary's Road in context with the Bequet-Ribault house and the Lasource-Durand house as an historic museum.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Interviews: Unidentified elderly informant from the neighborhood, interviewed September 16, 1982, by the Ste. Genevieve survey team.
- B. Bibliography:
1. Primary and unpublished sources: Deed records in the Ste. Genevieve County Clerk's Office, County Courthouse. Other records in the Ste. Genevieve Archives (SGA), collected on microfilm, Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri-Columbia.
 2. Secondary and published sources:

Ekberg, Carl J., Colonial Ste. Genevieve, An Adventure on the Mississippi Frontier (Gerald, Missouri: The Patrice Press, 1985).

Franzwa, Gregory M., The Story of Old Ste. Genevieve (St. Louis: The Patrice Press, 1967).

Peterson, Charles E., "Early Ste. Genevieve and its Architecture," The Missouri Historical Review, XXXV:2 (January 1941), pp. 207-232.

Porterfield, Neil H. "Ste. Genevieve, Missouri," in John Francis McDermott, editor, Frenchmen and French Ways in the Mississippi Valley (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1969), pp. 141-177.

Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration, Missouri, A Guide to the "Show Me" State (Missouri State Highway Department, 1941).

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) team of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, under the direction of Historical Architect Thomas G. Keohan. Documentation was carried out during the summer of 1985 at the HABS field office in Ste. Genevieve,

Missouri, by project supervisor Osmund Overby (University of Missouri-Columbia), project architects James Q. Marsh (Hemet, California), William D. Cesaletti (Keaau, Hawaii), and Terance A. Gruenhagen (North Dakota State University), and project historian Claudia A. Barbero (University of Missouri-Columbia).

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